THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism has been implementing a scheme "Market Research Professional Services" under which tourism related surveys, studies, market research, etc. are sponsored. The budget allocation for this scheme for financial year 2007-08 is Rs. 5 crore.

(c) to (e) During the year 2004, M/s. Datamation Consultants Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi was commissioned to conduct a Survey on Collection of Domestic Tourism Statistics for the State of Goa at a total cost of Rs. 11.64 lakh.

Visa-on-Arrival Scheme

1217. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to get the proposal regarding 'Visa-on-Arrival' be cleared;

(b) if so, the response of the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard;

(c) whether the foreign tourists have been urging Government to introduce the Visa-on-Arrival Scheme; and

(d) by when the Visa-on-Arrival Scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. At present, the Ministry of Home Affairs has not agreed to this scheme due to the prevalent security scenario.

(d) Does not arise.

Threat of terrorism to tourist inflow

1218. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many cancellations by operators bringing tourists to India due to threat of terrorism and other factors during the current year *i.e.* 2007-08; and

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise particularly for Rajasthan, Kerala, Goa etc.?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) In 2007, an estimated 5.00 million tourists visited India and showed a growth of 12.4% over the last year. The foreign tourist arrivals for the month of January and February, 2008 has shown an increase of 9.9% and 12.4% respectively over the same period of 2007.

(b) Does not arise.

Safety of tourists

†1219. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase recently in the incidents of teasing and looting with the foreign tourists;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.